

through the oubliette. The Regent and his advisers might not be so obliging.

So as to leave no doubt on the supreme question of France's dominance over the left bank of the Rhine, M. Briand issued definite instructions to the Ambassador to reduce the French demands to writing. And here is his record of the action Paleologue took :—

" Wednesday,

14th February,
1917.

Acting on instructions received from Briand, I have just sent the following letter to Pokrovski :

I have the honour to inform the Imperial Government that the Government of the Republic is proposing to incorporate *Paleologue* the following territorial claims and guarantees in the terms of peace to be imposed on Germany. (1) Alsace-Lorraine shall be returned to France ; (2) its frontiers shall extend at the least to the limits of the former Duchy of Lorraine ; they will be drawn in such a way as to provide for strategic necessities and include the whole of the coal basin in the valley of the Sarre in French territory ; (3) the other territories on the left bank of the Rhine, which are now incorporated in the German Empire, shall be completely severed from Germany and liberated from any political and

economic
dependence upon her (4) the
territories on the
left bank of the Rhine which are not
incorporated
in French territory shall form an
autonomous
and neutralised State ; they will be
occupied by